

February 24, 2014

Dear Honorary Members of the Education and Appropriations Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my personal and professional opinion regarding PA12-40 and its possible effects on students and our state.

I have been working with high school students who are low-income and first-generation to college for the past 18 years. The students that I work with are from Priority Schools Districts in Hartford and Windham. I can tell you first hand that most of these students are at a great academic disadvantage. Unfortunately, these students are not prepared for the rigors of college and/or to successfully complete high school with the hope of enrolling in a college of their choice.

I strongly believe that PA 12-40 has the interest and well-being of students as a priority. Therefore, it is imperative that resources are made available to these students if we want them to get an equal opportunity and preparation as students attending well-funded school districts.

The success of PA 12-40 will be measured by how this law will help the young citizens and residents of Connecticut to make a successful transition from high school or adult education to post-secondary education and should NOT be measured by how many students dropped out of high school or how many of them failed to reach their college dreams. I employ you to consider how the implementation of this public act will affect students who are in less advantageous situations to no fault of their own. It is our responsibility as educators and policy-makers to ensure that everyone in the state has the academic preparation needed to compete in our global and highly competitive society.

Our state will greatly benefit from the contributions that our young people will make; indeed, our state's future depends on the academic preparation of our young people and the choices that are available to them. The future of our state and our youth is your hands!

Sincerely,


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